

against the average 75.17 inches) and to this comparative drought perhaps may be indirectly attributed the abnormal numbers of this butterfly—*Cirrochroa bajadeta*. That the monsoon has been an exceptionally favourable one for insects is shewn also by the following occurrences:—(1) The number of swarms of social wasps and bees has been greater than usual during the past 3 months. (2) Captain A. Balser of the s.s. "Rajah of Sarawak" reports that on the 20th January ult., a swarm of dragon flies came aboard his ship when about 50 miles west of the island of St. Pierre; the wind was very unsteady at the time; the insects appeared to be making their way North. (3) Mr. H. B. Crocker, officer-in-charge at Paku, Upper Sarawak, informs me that on January 27th ult., he noticed a swarm of some Pierine butterflies (species not identified, probably *Catopsilia crocale*, Cram.) flying in a solid phalanx some 20 fathoms long by 8 fathoms wide in a westerly direction.

*R. Shelford.*

### Work on Sakais by Messrs. Skeat and Blagden.

In a letter from Mr. Blagden lately received he states that the important work on the wild tribes of the Malay peninsula by Mr. W. D. Skeat and himself will shortly be out. It is an attempt to combine in one work all that is of any permanent value in previous publications both books and periodicals, as well as Mr. Skeat's own independently collected matter collected during the Cambridge Exploring Expedition, in the Northern States of the Peninsula and in Selangor, Mr. Blagden's own notes, and the various information collected by Mr. D. F. A. Hervey, Hugh Clifford, Vaughan Stevens and others. The book which will be well illustrated will be found to be as complete as it is possible to make it, and should prove of the greatest interest to all Europeans in the Malay peninsula. It is unnecessary to point out that in many cases the language and customs of these most interesting tribes are gradually disappearing so that a good record of them is of the greatest importance, and the names of the authors are a guarantee of the excellence of the work.

*H. N. R.*